

Ministers of the Liturgy December 12 & 13, 2015

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Karen Hebert (L), Joyce Sirgo, Rose Marie Greco Federico, Patrick C. McKinney, Hubert LaBorde, Marian Quigley, Marie O'Malley, Merle & Charles Dittmer, Joseph Segari, Frank Anthony Federico, Flora Maria Be, George Spaulding, Augustine Borrás

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

J. Rodosta, L. Segari

Cantor: Trish Foti

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Ray Dunn

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

C. Frederick, L. Whitman, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot

Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Patti & Ed Curry, Sr. (L), Dianne Z. Harrison, Frank E. Golemi, James E. Fitzmorris, Jr. (L), Melvin Ducote, Kelvin Ducote, Hilton Daigle, Jr., Melvin Volz, Joseph Donald Bernard, Amanda Inbau Arthur, Rita Burch, Margaret & Larry Pregeant, Irvin Dares

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

P. & R. Serio, N. Bostick, L. Frey

Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Parishioners

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

L. Daigle, B. David

Cantor: Lauren Gisclair

Pianist: Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses (12/14-18)

Monday	7:00 a.m.	Don Rowan, Sr.
	5:30 p.m.	Joseph Segari
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	Marie O'Malley
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	D.J. Schexnayder, Sr.
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Marion Holloway
	5:30 p.m.	Marie O'Malley
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Paul LaRocca, Sr.
	8:20 a.m.	Hilda Thibodeaux



Christmas Memorial Greenery and Flowers

The beautiful poinsettias and greenery that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Christmas at St. Benilde Catholic Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Christmas Flowers Memorial Envelopes** found in the vestibule of Church.

Donations toward the cost of Christmas decorations in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received during this past year. *The suggested donation is \$10 per remembrance.* Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, the Poor Box or bring it to the Parish Office before December 23. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Memorial Envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas Season and names will be printed in the bulletin.

Advent Holy Hour and Confessions

The parish will have a Holy Hour from 6pm - 7 pm on Monday, December 21, as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas.

Both Fr. Cooper and Fr. H.L. will be available for Confessions from 6 pm - 7 pm.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Dec. 19/20

4 p.m.	R. Aucoin, C. Casente
9 a.m.	J. & G. Rojas, D. Childers, B. O'Hara
11 a.m.	K. & M. Sorensen, S. Gordon, L. Peters
6 p.m.	M. Drawe, D. Powers



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary
Light in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux



Altar Ladies

Week of December 13

M. Surcouf, L. Hart, Y. Morise

Linens

Large - C. Ayers Small - E. Beyer

Last Week's Collection

Envelopes	\$8,045.00
Loose	3,236.56
Repairs and Maintenance.....	1,943.00
Msgr. Richaud Endowment Fund.....	229.00
Totalling	\$13,454.28

Fr. Cooper's Corner

Preaching the Good News of Great Joy

In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), Pope Francis said that to bring about the missionary transformation of the Church, there is a need to form and reform the messengers so that they may effectively announce and become the Gospel message. As we prepare to celebrate the "good news of great joy for all the people" that will be proclaimed to us in less than two weeks, it is worthwhile for us to ponder Pope Francis' suggestion that each of us likewise is called to continue that work of the angels on Christmas morn.

"There is a kind of preaching," Pope Francis writes in the exhortation, that is a "daily responsibility" for each of us, to bring the Gospel to those we meet, both neighbors and complete strangers. "Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others ... on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey." This is not a preaching "at" anyone, but much more an art of "spiritual accompaniment," listening with an open heart, seeking to bring the person into a dialogue with us and with the saving word and work of God.

The message that Pope Francis wants all of us to be able to echo and evince with integrity is a synthesis of the meaning of both Christmas and Easter: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." When we credibly witness to others the beauty and joy of what it looks like to be loved by God and to be accompanied by Him through all life's ups and downs, we become evangelized evangelizers capable of attracting others to enter into the same drama of redeeming love. That's the general day-to-day preaching all of us are called to give.

Francis says it's important not just to know what to say but how to say it. The Pope encourages all preachers to be joyful, positive, warm, welcoming, familiar, practical, unpretentious, and organized. He says they should stress not what we shouldn't do as much as what we can be done better. Rather than dour judges and experts in dire predictions, preachers should be guardians of goodness and the beauty of a life of faithful love in accordance with God's wisdom. Bishops, priests and deacons ought to devote a lot of time in the preparation of homilies, Pope Francis adds, giving it priority over other important tasks. Those who "wing it" because they're too busy with other activities, he says, are "dishonest and irresponsible with gifts from God which he has received." True love of neighbor, he says, is shown in refusing to offer a product of poor quality.

Time is necessary for the preacher to study and contemplate the Word of God to such a degree that it resonates in his heart before he shares it with others. Unless the word has truly touched his life through prayerful assimilation, Pope Francis maintains, he will be "a false prophet, a fraud, a shallow imposter." The preacher also needs adequate time to contemplate his people: what their needs, feelings, habits,

aspirations, limitations, struggles and worldviews are with respect to the Word of God, so that he can be an instrument to join their hearts to the Lord's.

Francis advises preachers to be brief lest the homily take on exaggerated importance in comparison with the Liturgy of the Eucharist or devolve into a speech or lecture. He doesn't define what he means by "brief," but if he practices what he himself recommends, he's probably thinking about 15 minutes, which is the average length of his homilies on Sundays and solemnities. He urges preachers to imitate the way mothers evangelize their children, teaching lovingly what is for their benefit, listening to their concerns, speaking clearly and simply in a language they understand, and correcting when necessary with patience and tenderness. The fact that he learned the faith primarily from his grandmother obviously influences this metaphor. If the inspirational heroes in his life had been male coaches or spiritual fathers, he likely would have accentuated the necessary paternal side to preaching, challenging sons and daughters courageously to strive beyond their comfort zones. We see both the paternal and maternal sides in Jesus' preaching.

Ultimately Francis hopes that, just as Jesus had a great joy in communicating the faith to those He loved, so each preacher will be filled with that same enjoyment and enthusiasm, communicating every word as a gift before it is a demand, as good news rather than bad news, as the path to life and fulfillment and liberation from death. (*full article on frcooper.info*)



Access Pregnancy & Referral Centers would like to thank everyone for their generous support of their recent Baby Bottle Fundraiser. During that campaign, \$3,973.69 was collected. Funds will be used in the ACCESS pro-life pregnancy ministry.

Bless the Baby Jesus

The Bless the Baby Jesus devotion will be held with Fr. Cooper on **Sunday, December 20, as part of the 11 a.m. Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** This is an excellent opportunity for families to grow in faith as the "domestic church." ***All Children are invited to bring a figurine of the baby Jesus, particularly from their family Nativity Crèche to be blessed by Fr. Cooper during Mass.*** Fr. Cooper will invite the children to sit at the foot of the step of the sanctuary for the homily and then to come forward to have their figurines blessed. Please come and enjoy this beautiful Advent Mass and devotion. Donuts and milk will be served after Mass.

Lost Ring

If anyone found a LSU class ring at the Foodie Fest, please call Emile at 504-234-9689 or 504-833-5716.